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ASSOCIATION

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TO ALL GOVERNORS:

The National Governors Association (NGA) has been invited by Ambassador Zhou Wenzhong of the People's Republic of China to send a delegation of U.S. governors to visit their country and its leaders in June 2006. This invitation offers an opportunity for in-depth discussions on education and to a lesser extent bilateral trade and we would like to know how many of you may be interested in joining the delegation.

The emergence of the People's Republic of China as a regional and global economic power is without question. For example, between 1978 and 2002, China's annual GDP growth rate reached 9.4 percent, three times the world's average. In recent years, China has accounted for one third of global economic growth, lifting some 170 million people out of poverty.

The June 2006 delegation of U.S. governors will meet with Chinese leaders to discuss a range of issues. We have suggested these issues include:

- **High Schools**—Preparing more students for the expectations of college and the workplace;
- **Science & Mathematics**—Increasing the number of students entering careers in science & mathematics;
- **Workforce Preparation**—Creating partnerships between industry and postsecondary education
- **Closing the achievement gap,**
- **Trade Relations**—Expanding and strengthening partnerships with the global business community; and
- **Early Childhood**—Increasing readiness for kindergarten by providing high quality early childhood services.

The Chinese government will cover for all travel and lodging costs within the country. NGA will be seeking foundation support to pay travel costs from the U.S. to China. In the meantime, please notify Dane Linn, Director of the NGA Center's education division by January 25 if you have an interest in being part this historic event. You can reach Dane by phone at 202/624-3629 or via email at dlinn@nga.org.

Sincerely,

Governor Mike Huckabee

Governor Janet Napolitano